

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

September, 1998

Volume 7, Number 9

Milestone Award

UTMB Recognized for Successful Efforts

Because of remarkable success in various program areas, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Regional Maternal and Child Health Program is the most recent winner of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program's (BCCCP) Quarterly Milestone Award.

During the past year and a half, UTMB has initiated many effective changes. The most significant changes are: staff working 100 percent of their time on UTMB's Cancer Stop program, and the development of a computerized tracking system which tracks patient outcomes, billing documents, and patient referral status. As a result of these changes:

- The number of patients completing cancer diagnosis and treatment has increased;

- The time between initiation of diagnosis and treatment has decreased;
- Continuity of care for both the patient and referring agency has improved;
- Patients have a plan for transportation, accommodations and other needs;
- A reduction in time spent by health care professionals and others in locating information/resources;
- Patients and families receive reassurance through a network of education and emotional support;
- Patient and family satisfaction has improved;
- Referring agency satisfaction has improved;
- The error rate of D19, D23 and D24 forms has decreased; and

- The submission rate of D19, D23 and D24 forms to the State has increased.

UTMB has been a BCCCP provider since the Program began seven years ago.

UTMB's program, Cancer Stop, is offered at 18 clinic sites in four Texas regions: the Golden Triangle, Rio Grande Valley, Southeast and Deep East Texas.

Edward V. Hannigan, M.D. is Project Director for both the Cancer Stop and We Care programs. Dr. Hannigan is Chief of the Gynecologi-

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UTMB Receives Milestone Award -- UTMB staff pictured (left to right) are: Patricia Stovall, Special Projects Coordinator; Lisa Phillips, M.Ed., C.H.E.S., Cancer Stop Coordinator; Edward V. Hannigan, M.D., Executive Director; Katherine Golden Beck, M.S., R.N., Regional Director; and Maira Lerma, Patient Coordinator. Not pictured is Sheryl Hall, Billing Clerk.

BCCCP Briefs

Internet Resources

The **New England Journal of Medicine** website is located at: <http://www.nejm.org>

The **Journal of the American Medical Association's** website is located at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/jama>

The **National Library of Medicine** has a website at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves
Nora Ogea Lisa West
Lurah Oliver Rhonnda Jones

Professional Education, Clinical Services,

Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney
Claudia Himes

Public Information and Outreach:

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Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please call or write Wanda Gibson, Public Health Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

New CDC Guidelines Raise Questions for Providers

With the changes in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for fiscal year 1999 and with Texas Cancer Council (TCC) funds no longer available to pay for these services, some providers have raised questions on using funds for diagnostic services for women under age 50.

CDC funds for diagnostic services can be used for women under age 50 if they have an abnormal clinical breast examination (CBE) or have had an abnormal mammogram. Most services that were funded with TCC now will be provided with CDC funds. Adjustments will need to be made on the total number of women served, both for screening and diagnostic services as TCC funds are no longer available.

If a woman has had a previous abnormal mammogram, that information should be indicated on

Question 2 under Breast Cancer History on the D-19 form. In the event of an abnormal CBE, the results are entered under the CBE section.

The change of funding status may result in Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers feeling that they "must do more with less." Budgets and projected numbers served will be realigned in January, 1999, for possible supplemental funding for diagnostic services.

Many programs also have been successful in developing local, community resources from clinics and medical care providers to use a combination of purchased and donated services in case management project areas.

For more information, contact Kathy Kokel, Contract Specialist or Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

MOO*
UPDATE

New CDC Guidelines

- **Women with Medicare Part B are no longer eligible for the Program;**
- **At least 75% of mammograms funded by the Program must be for women age 50-64;**
- **Mammograms provided to women age 40 - 49 cannot exceed 25% of all mammograms funded by the Program; and**
- **No mammograms or services can be provided to women under age 40 unless they have an abnormal clinical breast examination.**

**Manual of Operations, BCCCP, 1998-1999.*

Pardon Our Mistake

In the June, 1998 issue of *Commitment*, we misidentified some people in the TWU Cares photograph. Pictured are (left to right) Gracie Salazar, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Lois Baird, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Pat King, L.V.N.; Brenda McBroom, R.N., F.N.P.; Linda Newcomer, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Amy Whisenant, Secretary; Thomas Birchman, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Sandra Herder, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Katherine Kremer, R.N., F.N.P.S.; Paul Hill, R.N., M.S., Clinic Manager; Anne Thomson, R.N., F.N.P. Faculty; Van Chauvin, R.N., F.N.P. Faculty; Susan Blair, R.N., F.N.P.S.; and Rosemary Goodyear, R.N., F.N.P., Director.

Ask The Expert

Don't forget, **you** can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.

Q Can I still bill a support fee for an unsatisfactory Pap test if I plan on re-doing the Pap test?

A No. Unsatisfactory Pap test fees are not reimbursable by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. Upon repeating these Pap tests and obtaining a satisfactory specimen, new documentation and billing should be submitted for reimbursement.

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cal Oncology Division and Medical Director for dysplasia services. The regional director for these programs is Katherine Golden Beck, R.N., M.S.

UTMB attributes much of its recent success to the Regional Maternal and Child Health Program employees and their commitment to making these changes work. Dr. Hannigan particularly recognizes the three regional case managers: Patricia Valadez (Conroe), Norma Castillo (McAllen), and Tina Brindza (Beaumont). He also acknowledges the efforts of the Galveston staff: Lisa Phillips, Cancer Stop Coordinator, Maira Lerma, Patient Liaison; Pat Stovall, Special Projects Coordinator; and Sheryl Hall, Billing Clerk.

In 1997, UTMB was awarded funds through both the BCCCP and Texas Cancer Council to implement the *Women's Enhanced Cancer Awareness Referral and Education (We Care)* Program.

The program offers culturally relevant breast and cervical cancer education and support for economically disadvantaged women. The *We Care* referral system provides a "seamless" transition for advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"Through their dedication and hard work, more positive changes will continue to occur," said Dr. Hannigan.

Thanks to Conference Committee

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) thanks the members of the Conference Planning Committee for the "Blueprint for the Future: Building Case Management" Conference. The conference was held July 28 and 29 in Houston. Conference Committee members represented the following organizations:

- Galveston County Health District
- Harris County Hospital District
- Jasper/Newton County Public Health District
- Planned Parenthood of Cameron and Willacy Counties
- Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas
- TDH Public Health Region 8
- Texas Department of Health
- University of Texas Medical Branch

The conference was a huge success. Thanks for your support!

M.D. Anderson Classes Offered

M.D. Anderson will offer the following classes this year:

Breast Classes:

September 21 - 24, 1998

November 16 - 19, 1998

March 8 - 11, 1999

Breast/Gynecology Classes:

January 11 - 14, 1999

April 19 - 22, 1999

Nurse Colposcopy Classes:

November 2 - 5, 1998

February 1 - 4, 1999

May 3 - 6, 1999

For more information about these courses, please contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955.

BCCCP Providers Urged to Plan Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities

Plans are now set for the **Wreath Project and Tell-A-Friend Friday Kickoff!** The event is planned for October 2. On that date, wreaths will be hung on courthouse doors across the state to signify Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Texas. Local BCCCP providers are encouraged to coordinate this event with local American Cancer Society staff and members of the Governor's Commission on Women who are from your area.

The Wreath Project also kicks off Tell-A-Friend Friday. This event will help inform the public of the importance of yearly mammograms. Texans are urged to call five friends, age 50 and older, to encourage them to get a breast examination and mammogram.

For more information, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

Lee Denim Day is scheduled for Friday, October 9. All proceeds

from the event are donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. To register your organization, call (800) 688-8508 by September 18 and you will be sent a packet of information. You can also view their website at: <http://www.denimday.com>.

Also of note is a **new stamp** issued to benefit breast cancer research. This is the first stamp in U.S. history to have its net proceeds above the cost of postage earmarked for research organizations.

The stamp costs 40 cents, with 70 percent of the net proceeds above the cost of postage are given to National Institutes of Health (NIH) and 30 percent to the Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense.

The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland and illustrated by Whitney Sherman of Baltimore. Kessler is a breast cancer survivor.

Important Dates

September

September 7

Labor Day
State Office Closed

September 10 - 11

Regional Meeting - Austin

September 21 - 22

Regional Meeting - Lufkin

September 23 - 24

Regional Meeting - Fort Stockton

October

October 1 - 2

Regional Meeting - Harlingen

October 2

Breast Cancer Awareness Day
(Wreath Project and Tell-A-Friend Friday Kickoff)

October 8 - 9

Regional Meeting - Dallas

October 9

Tell-A-Friend Friday

October 16

Tell-A-Friend Friday

October 23

Tell-A-Friend Friday

October 30

Tell-A-Friend Friday

Women Served*:

104,687

Breast Screenings:

124,394

Cervical Screenings:

94,154

Breast Cancers:

621

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1,406

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

45

*As of August 5, 1998

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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